

REMARKS

Claims 26, 43 and 54-58 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 25, 30, 42 and 47 have been amended to recite that the isolated polypeptide or fusion protein "consists of" the recited amino acid sequences. Support for the amendments is found throughout the application, for example, at page 24, lines 18-20, and at page 22, lines 8 through 19. This Amendment adds no new matter.

Additional remarks are set forth below with reference to the numbered paragraphs of the Office Action.

Paragraph 6. Rejection of Claims 25-33, 42-50 and 51-58 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph.

Claims 25-33, 42-50 and 51-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking written description.

Claims 26, 43 and 54-58 have been canceled, obviating the rejection of these claims.

Claims 25, 30, 42 and 47 have been amended as described above, obviating the rejection.

Paragraph 9. Rejection of Claims 25-27, 42-44 and 51-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 25-27, 42-44 and 51-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or, in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being anticipated by or obvious over Pereira *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.* 174:179-191 (1991) (Reference AX of record). The Examiner states that Pereira *et al.* disclose a *T. Cruzi* neuraminadase sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:14.

Claims 26, 43 and 54-58 have been canceled, obviating the rejection of these claims.

Claims 25, 30, 42 and 47 have been amended to recite that the isolated polypeptide or fusion protein "consists of" the recited amino acid sequences. The subject matter of these amended claims is not disclosed or suggested by Pereira *et al.* Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Paragraph 10. Rejection of Claims 25-27, 42-44 and 51-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 25-27, 42-44 and 51-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Pereira *et al.* (Reference AX of record) in view of Chuenkova *et al. Biochem. & Biophys. Res. Comm.* 262:549-556 (1999) (Reference AZ of record). The Examiner relies on Pereira *et al.*

for the teaching discussed above, and for teaching that the N-terminal region of the polypeptide is believed to possess the enzymatic activity. The Examiner states that Chuenkova *et al.* teaches regions of a polypeptide that correspond to the enzyme disclosed in Pereira *et al.* The Examiner further states that Chuenkova *et al.* teaches use of truncated or modified variants of the polypeptide to confirm that the enzymatic activity resides in the N-terminal region. Based on this understanding of the teachings of the references, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to make deletion variants of the neuraminidase encoded by Clone 7F taught by Pereira *et al.* using the methods taught in Chuenkova *et al.* , and that such deletion variants would include the SEQ ID NO:14 sequence motif.

Claims 26, 43 and 54-58 have been canceled, obviating the rejection of these claims.

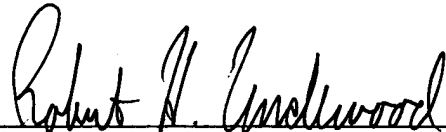
Claims 25, 30, 42 and 47 have been amended to recite that the isolated polypeptide or fusion protein "consists of" the recited amino acid sequences. The subject matter of these amended claims is not disclosed or suggested by Pereira *et al.* Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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